

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL EDUCATION MEETING

Juneau, Alaska, January 22 – 24, 2013

January 22, 2013

Council Members Present:

Anna Attla
Julie Broyles
Milton Cheemuk
Art Delaune
Don Enoch
Kathleen Fitzgerald
David Flynn
Dean Gates
Eric Gebhart, Chair
Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus
Taylor Gregg
Heidi Haas
Susan Kaplan
Terese Kashi
Margaret Kossler
Banarsi Lal
Kaleene Lamb
Karli Lopez, telephonic
Ric Nelson
Sean O'Brien
Lelia (Lucy) Odden
Robert Petersen
Justine Sheehan
Amy Simpson

Council Staff:

Rich Sanders, Interim Executive Director
Teresa Holt, Operations Director
Patrick Reinhart, Program Coordinator I
Christie Reinhardt, Program Coordinator I
Carrie Predeger, Research Analyst III
Sheryl Cobb, Admin. Assistant
Michelle Jenkins, Office Assistant
Kalyssa Maile, Intern
Barbara Dick, Intern

CART Provided by Lenny DiPaolo, Peninsula Reporting
Minutes Prepared by Paula DiPaolo, Peninsula Reporting

Tuesday, January 22, 2013

Due to weather issues and flight delays, the Council agenda was amended to accommodate guest speaker presentations.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND EARLY DEVELOPMENT

Commissioner Hanley shared the following legislative items of interests to the Department of Education and Early Development:

- HB 41 – forward funding for education
- HJR 1 – constitutional amendment regarding school choice
- HB 45 – authorizing school personnel to carry firearms
- HB 21 – four-day school week
- HB 45 – electronic bullying
- SB 6 – funding for school meals
- SB 15 – funding for early kindergartener/pre-K program in public schools.

Commissioner Hanley shared the following Governor’s budget proposals for education:

- \$5.9 million to digitize education in Alaska
 - \$3.9 million as a one-to-one initiative to get devices into the hands of students and change the way teachers teach
 - \$1.1 million for the Alaska Learning Network, which offers online courses for students, especially in rural Alaska
 - \$900,000 increased support and strengthening of broadband capabilities
- Jobs for Alaska’s Graduates
- Kindergarten through 3rd grade literacy project
- \$25 million added to aid districts in the base student allocation
- Funding for the pre-K program.

Commissioner Hanley stated that SB 17 is the SESA bill put forth by Senator Stevens, and it is to extend the sunset until 2021. Last year a bill regarding SESA came forward, which included extending the sunset as well as an increase in the funding for SESA. The bill did not pass, and they realized that a lot more educating was necessary for the legislature, particularly those legislators whose communities use SESA services. He stated that the Department of Education recognizes the tremendous value that SESA offers. The services they provide are invaluable as Alaska takes care of students with high needs and disabilities. He stated that if nothing happens with this bill during this session, beginning July 1, 2013, SESA will need to begin dismantling, and they will have a year to totally close down.

Commissioner Hanley stated that there is no funding request attached to SB 17, and from his perspective, it should be left that way. He doesn’t think they should risk moving this sunset forward by adding things that may cause consternation and concern at the 11th hour. He stated that he is not speaking toward whether or not SESA needs more funding, but he is referring to the political process that will allow SESA to continue, and he noted that they don’t get a second

chance at it. He feels that the strategy of Senator Stevens' bill is a solid strategy.

Commissioner Hanley thanked the Council for the work they do and looks forward to their continued working relationship.

DIVISION OF SENIOR AND DISABILITY SERVICES

Duane Mayes began his presentation by thanking **Rich Sanders** for filling in as interim executive director of the Council and complimented his success in that role.

He stated that the mission of the Division is to promote the well-being and safety for individuals with disabilities, seniors, and vulnerable adults by facilitating access to quality services and supports that foster independence, personal choice, and dignity.

Duane Mayes highlighted the following core services of the Division:

- Adult Protective Services
- Office of Children's Services
- Nursing home placements and transitions to community placements
- Administration of the Medicaid State Plan Personal Care Assistance Program
- Waiver programs
- Temporary assisted living for vulnerable adults over the age of 18
- Administration of community-based grants for seniors and individuals with developmental disabilities – these are grants for individuals who don't qualify for a waiver
- Maintenance of the DD Registry and keeping it updated.

Duane Mayes stated that the IDD waiver has gone up from an average of \$73,000 per recipient to around \$79,000 per recipient. They are doing an analysis of why that has occurred.

Duane shared the following Division successes from last year:

- Received funding for three additional investigators to investigate reports of harm.
- Received funding for two additional staff to address compliance issues and do site reviews.
- SB 86 passed, which was the Governor's bill on enhancing Adult Protective Services.
- Automated service plan project to reduce the manual processes that are currently in place.
- Received over \$1,000,000 Elder Abuse Prevention grant through the Administration on Aging.
- Telehealth is moving forward, and they have purchased video conferencing equipment.
- The Medicare Information Office has moved to 4th and Gambell.
- They have a work group for the ADRC three-year pilot project.
- Received funding for adult day, nutrition, and transportation support for seniors.
- \$135,000 increment for a deaf navigator.

Duane Mayes then shared the Division's priorities for this year as follows:

- \$140,000 MHTAAR - rural long-term care development specialist.
- \$136,000 MHTAAR - Traumatic-Acquired Brain Injury (TABI) project.
- \$300,000 GF/MH – TABI, expansion of person-centered, goal-oriented case management.
- \$125,000 MHTAAR - ADRC funding.
- \$230,000 GF/MH - Alzheimer's disease and related dementia education and support program.
- \$150,000 GF/MH – Senior Fall Prevention Program.

Kathy Fitzgerald commented to Duane Mayes that during her Partners in Policy training, she has learned that there are a number of people, both elders and people with developmental disabilities, who are homeless. She had not realized how many people were falling through the cracks and wanted to be sure that the Division was aware of it as well. Duane stated that he is aware of it and is alarmed by it. He stated that it is something the Council and the Division can work on together.

Kathy Fitzgerald also asked Duane Mayes to comment on where the Division stands on the Complex Behavioral Collaborative. He stated that it is going to be very important that they have the numbers, and he wants to connect with Reta Sullivan from the Division of Behavioral Health, because she has been tracking that progress.

Ric Nelson stated that the Council gave public comment on the proposed waiver regulations last year, but since that time they have not heard when the regulations are coming out. Duane Mayes stated that right now the regulations are with the Department of Law, then it will go to the commissioner's office, and then to the Office of the Lt. Governor for the final review. He stated that the Department of Law has asked for an extension. Duane estimates that it will be a few more months before the regulations become official.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Commissioner Streur stated that he is being very cautious with the regulations. He stated they are spending much more time with the provider community and the recipient community to make sure they get it right the first time.

Commissioner Streur stated there are two vacancies, the deputy commissioner for Medicaid and Health Care Policy and the assistant commissioner for finance. He stated they will continue to work to fill those positions with the right people for the job.

In terms of priorities, Commissioner Streur stated that the focus is on measurable performance. The first priority is health and wellness across the life span. He noted that Alaska has an aging population with a lot of people going on Medicare, which means that the health care costs will go up exponentially. This priority is to promote and protect the health of Alaskans and provide a quality of life and a safe environment for Alaskans.

The second priority is that health care access is delivered with value; right care, right time, right place, for the right people. He stated that this priority is to manage the health care coverage for Alaskans in need and facilitate access to affordable health care for Alaskans. He stated that they have enlisted the help of the Department's provider network beginning with primary care providers. He noted that they are still evaluating the Medicaid expansion.

Priority three is safe and responsible individuals, families, and communities. He stated they need to strengthen families, provide the service and care they need, and protect vulnerable Alaskans. They also need to promote personal responsibility and accountable decisions by Alaskans. It's about getting people to step up and be a part, when they can, in the care that they receive.

Commissioner Streur stated that they are moving to prevention and orientation. With Alaska's high-utilizing populations, the Department needs to look at providing effective and efficient care management for them. Again, the Department needs to ensure that it is the right care, the right time, and the right place for people and to help in any way that they can to address high-cost diseases.

Kathy Fitzgerald asked for the commissioner's thoughts on getting a service system in place for people with FASE or FASD so they don't end up in Corrections or needing more high-cost services. Commissioner Streur stated that they didn't get a lot of traction with the FASD pilot project because it wasn't well utilized. He asked for the Council's help in addressing this issue.

ALASKA MENTAL HEALTH TRUST AUTHORITY

Steve Williams stated that what they are hearing from the administration is a hold the line or conservative approach to the budget this year. He stated that the message he has taken away from Commissioner Streur and Duane Mayes is that there may be some things that the Department is going to do to move forward to expand or enhance services, but they are also going to take a good look at what they are currently doing and try to make sure they are doing it in an effective and efficient manner. He stated that advocacy will also be difficult this year because there is a new legislative body. He stated that Representative Neuman will be co-chairing the DHSS subcommittee budget, so it will be very important to make sure that the Council's messages are conveyed in a clear manner to him and that the need and importance to Alaskans is clearly demonstrated.

Steve Williams stated that from the Trust's perspective of the Council's top three priorities, the Complex Behavior Collaborative is the Trust's most important priority. He stated that without an increment getting put into the base, that project will end up terminating at the end of the fiscal year. He stated that the Division of Behavioral Health has put out three documents that describe the Collaborative, and he feels that the numbers are a little bit lower than what was expected. But he also noted that it is a pilot project, so it needs to be framed that way, and it needs to be highlighted that people have been receiving services and there have been successes. They should also expect to see those numbers increasing over time. He also noted that this project is very complex in terms of its implementation, and that needs to be highlighted as well. He commented that the Trust is trying to wind down the Bring the Kids Home Initiative, and the CBC plays a

role in supports to people in that regard as well.

Steve Williams stated that the Trust will also move forward and support the SESA priority. They do not want to see SESA sunset. The Trust would also like to see, as the legislative audit report recommended, an increase in the cost per student. He also noted that employment for all the beneficiary groups is a priority for the Trust, and they will also be supportive of that Council priority.

KEY COALITION

Clark Gruening stated that in listening to the revenue projections from Senate Finance, it's not as glowing revenue-wise as it was last legislature, but Alaska is far from broke. He noted that they will have their work cut out for them to get their increments and keep the Governor's proposals.

Clark stated that Representative Neuman will be overseeing the House Finance subcommittees in a different arrangement, because this year it will be a committee as a whole, whereas the Senate will be more traditional with Senator Donny Olson chairing the committee again.

Kathy Fitzgerald asked for Clark Gruening's opinion as to whether or not there should be an amendment to the current SESA sunset bill that includes an increment to increase SESA's funding. Clark felt that the sunset should be a separate issue from funding, and he feels they may want to do a little groundwork to determine if asking for an increment will threaten the issue of sunset.

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL – 11:54 a.m.

The meeting was officially called to order and roll call was taken.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Justine Sheehan MOVED to approve the agenda. The motion **PASSED**.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE OCTOBER 2012 MEETING

David Flynn MOVED to approve the minutes from the October 2012 Council meeting as presented. The motion **PASSED**.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS

There were no conflicts of interest to report.

PREPARE FOR MEETINGS WITH LEGISLATORS

Teresa Holt and **Kalyssa Maile** reviewed the PowerPoint presentation "Meeting with your Legislator" with Council members as follows:

Tonight:

- Review position papers
- Read legislator biographies
- Practice talking points aloud.

Before the Meeting:

- Make sure you have everything you need
- Find the team leader for your group
- Decide who will discuss each topic
- Arrive five to ten minutes early
- Check in with staff to sign the legislator's guest book.

In the Meeting:

- Each group member will introduce themselves beginning with the team leader
- Give the legislator the packet of Council information
- Take turns explaining the issue
- Thank them for taking the time to meet and for their support of the Council
- When done talking, ask for a group photo with the legislator
- Thank them again before leaving.

When Speaking:

- Show the legislator where the information on the issue is located in the packet
- Briefly describe the issue
- Explain why the issue is important, the impact it has on your life or the lives of others
- Let them know what the Council would like them to do
- Ask if they have any questions or would like additional information

Meeting Do's:

- Stay on topic
- Watch the time
- Pay attention to the legislator's reaction
- Take notes on things to follow up on
- Listen to others in the meeting
- Silence all phones or turn them off.

Meeting Don'ts:

- Don't bring up topics unrelated to the issue
- Don't speak too long
- Don't argue with the legislator
- Don't provide answers to questions you don't know
- Don't interrupt the legislator or other group members
- Don't answer your phone or text while others are talking.

After the Meeting:

- Debriefing by the team leader in the second floor lounge area. Give Council staff feedback about legislator reactions, and let staff know if there is any follow up that needs to be done with the legislator.
- Everyone should sign the thank-you card for each legislator visited
- E-mail any photos taken with legislators to **Kalyssa Maile**.

Debriefing:

- Was the legislator for or against any of the Council's priorities?
- Would they like any additional information on any of the issues?
- Did you learn any interesting personal information about the legislator?
- Did you take a photo?

Teresa Holt opened up a discussion on the details of the Council's priorities. Council members shared personal stories and asked questions to get clarity on the issues and to clearly frame the talking points.

- Complex Behavior Collaborative – the ask is for a \$650,000 GF/MH base funding increment to continue necessary services provided by the CBC in the FY'14 budget.
- Special Education Service Agency – the ask is for the passage of SB 17 to reauthorize SESA and support an amendment to increase SESA funding to \$21.50 per student as recommended by the legislative audit report. **Teresa Holt** opened up a discussion with Council members on whether or not they should keep the reauthorization and the funding bills separate and not look for an amendment to the current bill. She noted that the talking point sheet says that the Council is looking for an amendment. **Chair Gebhart** stated that this is SESA's hour, and along with the reauthorization comes the fact that SESA needs to be able to function as the organization the legislative audit says it is. **Kathy Fitzgerald** agreed and added that rural legislators and legislators who understand SESA's importance will fight to make sure SESA doesn't go away and has funding. Geri Benshoof stated that she feels it's no use to reauthorize it if it isn't refunded. **Chair Gebhart** stated he will be meeting with Senator Stevens at 10:15 tomorrow and will see how he feels about funding for SESA, and then the Council can make further decisions after that as to how they are going to approach the funding issue.
- Employment for People with Developmental Disabilities – the ask is to support a \$500,000 GF/MH increment in the FY'14 budget to provide the opportunity for 36 to 45 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to become employed in the community.

Additional FY'14 State Funding Recommendations:

- ILP Funding - \$1.5 million GF/MH – Office of Children's Services
- Council Operations - \$150,000 GF/MH - SDS
- Rural Transition Services - \$100,000 GF/MH.

Legislative Recommendations:

- Respectful Language legislation

- Employment First legislation.

Teresa Holt and **Kalyssa Maile** reviewed the legislative appointment schedule with Council members.

OTHER INFORMATION FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Former executive director Millie Ryan joined the Council meeting. Council members took turns thanking Millie for her service to the Council, and Millie thanked the Council members for their service and the opportunity to work with them.

Chair Gebhart announced that the Executive Director Interview Committee has recommended **Teresa Holt** for the position of executive director of the Council. He stated that the Council will take a ratification vote on Thursday to make a recommendation to the Governor for his approval. He thanked **Patrick Reinhart** for applying and for all the great service he provides to the Council. He also offered a special thanks to **Rich Sanders** for stepping in as interim executive director.

RECESS

The meeting recessed at 4:30 p.m.

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Wednesday, January 23, 2013

MEETINGS WITH LEGISLATORS

Council members conducted their legislative visits.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY – 6:00 p.m.

Public testimony was heard and a full transcript was prepared.

RECESS

The meeting recessed at 7:00 p.m.

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Thursday, January 24, 2013

CALL TO ORDER – 9:00 a.m.

Roll Call

HOUSEKEEPING/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Gebhart announced that over Christmas break he had a chance to go to Iowa to visit his granddaughter.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Rich Sanders stated that this job has been a lot more than he expected, but it has been a pleasure to have stepped in. The first day he took over as interim executive director was when the U.N. bill for the rights of people with disabilities was being voted on, and he had to deal with quite a bit of Facebook correspondence as well as calls from the Governor's office.

Rich Sanders stated that he attended many Trust meetings and met with the sister boards on joint advocacy.

He stated that **Christie Reinhardt** has been hired to staff the Education and Early Intervention Committees. He also noted that **Patrick Reinhart** took on being the lead on the Integrated Employment Initiative, and he's been working very hard on the Health Promotions grant.

Barbara Dick has been working on the ASPEN project, and **Kalyssa Maile** is their political science intern. **Rich Sanders** stated that they have a new position they put in for someone to work half time on the Health Promotions grant and half time on the ASPEN grant, and they are hoping to get somebody by the end of February.

Rich Sanders stated that they provided public comment on the teacher evaluation regulations, attended State Board of Education meetings in Anchorage and Kodiak, and there was an ad hoc committee that was developed to work on graduation rates for students with disabilities. They completed the nomination process for the Inclusive Practice Award, participated in the EED stakeholder meeting regarding the Annual Performance Report, and they reviewed the restraint and seclusion report done by the Disability Law Center and the Anchorage School District, and met with their special education director.

Rich stated that there was a presentation done about SESA for the Alaska Association of School Boards by Patrick Reinhart and Eric Gebhart. The SESA board held their work session on December 13th to review and revise policies and procedures.

Rich Sanders stated that the Disability Employment Initiative is something he has been working on, and he is proud to say that the Ticket to Work is now open in four different Job Centers throughout the state. Right now they are serving 11 beneficiaries. They have strong connections in Fairbanks with the behavioral health partners and in Anchorage with the VR partners. He has met with Sean O'Brien to talk about the existing MOA and how they can approve upon that. He

stated that they have upgraded the assistive technologies to provide better access at all of their Job Centers, and they started using WebEx to provide ongoing training to Job Center staff. They are bringing in customized employment training that will be done alongside their partners next quarter, and right now he is developing a plan for sustainability. He stated that tomorrow he is meeting with the Department of Labor and the Alaska Workforce Investment Board and others to talk about various aspects of this grant that they want to continue after it ends in October.

Rich Sanders stated they have a State as a Model Employer Committee, and they will be meeting for the final go ahead on the report. This report will be available for the public, and it will show how the State employees feel about disabilities and how they feel about accessibility. He stated they have a provisional hire committee to look at the provisional hire program and make improvements to it. He also stated they had a Governor's proclamation during Disability Employment Awareness Month that also made reference to the State as a Model Employer Initiative.

Project SEARCH opened a new program at Central Peninsula Hospital in Soldotna with three students, and the Council entered into an RSA with Vocational Rehabilitation to provide technical assistance to the various Project SEARCH sites.

Rich Sanders stated that there was five new microenterprise grants approved, and the committee will be meeting in another week or two to review additional applications.

Under transportation, the Council has worked with a variety of stakeholders to increase the availability of services. **Patrick Reinhart** attends the monthly Municipality of Anchorage Public Transit Advisory Board meetings, and they met with the mayor and leadership team on six ideas for improving or expanding services in Anchorage. The Council reviewed the State of Alaska and Trust fund applications for coordinated dollars, participated in the NCIL and APRIL transportation committee teleconferences, and attended the meeting of the National Steering Committee on Human Services Transportation Coordination and pre-conference on employment and transportation.

The Council continues to collaborate with their partners, including the Center for Human Development, DVR, the Trust and all the different divisions and State agencies in doing different advocacy and leadership activities and looking at community supports and services.

Rich Sanders stated the Council provided public comment and input on some proposed regulations and plans for initiatives, including proposed regulation changes to PCA and the home and community-based services rates. And finally, they developed the Council position papers for the legislature.

Rich Sanders concluded his report by stating that he looks forward to working with **Teresa Holt**, and he thanked the staff for stepping up and helping out during this transition. He also thanked Council members for their work in getting prepared for this meeting.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Gebhart recited the Council's mission statement: Creating change that improves the lives of people with disabilities. He also recognized and welcomed **Christie Reinhardt** as Council staff, and again thanked **Rich Sanders** for his work as interim executive director.

Chair Gebhart stated that while he was on vacation in Iowa, he had an opportunity to have breakfast with Becky Maddy-Harker, the executive director for the Iowa council and a personal and professional friend of Millie Ryan. On Thursday, January 10th he was a guest at their council meeting. He noted that it was great to see another council work and to make those contacts. He encouraged Council members to do the same when they are visiting other states.

Chair Gebhart recognized members of the Executive Transition Committee and the Executive Interview Committee and thanked them for their service. He stated that the ED search was a nationwide search. They received 21 applicants, 14 of them from Alaska. There were over 240 pages of documents reviewed during this search; and five finalists were identified, three from Anchorage two from out of state. The two from out of state declined to interview. The three finalists were interviewed on January 16th.

Chair Gebhart stated that he would like all Council members who are present at this Juneau meeting to have the opportunity to participate in the ratification vote for executive director. Some of those members are telephonic, while others are currently in legislative meetings. The telephonic member can vote by text, and the other members can vote at a later time that day.

Amy Simpson MOVED that the Council set aside their rules and allow all who are present in this meeting to have an opportunity to participate in the ratification vote for executive director. The motion **PASSED**.

Chair Gebhart brought forth the following committee motion: It is **MOVED** by the Interview Committee that **Teresa Holt** be ratified by the Council for the position of executive director and that her name be submitted to the Governor for approval.

Council members voted anonymously either "yes" to affirm the interview team's recommendation, or "no" to not accept the committee's recommendation. Ballots of those present were collected, and the results will be announced once everyone has had the chance to vote.

Chair Gebhart recognized Geri Benshoof's service to the Council as the liaison with the Alaska State Board of Education. Geri's term on the Board is expiring in March, so this will be her last meeting with the Council. He thanked her for representing the Council to the State Board in such a positive way. Geri Benshoof thanked the Council and stated that the Council mission is very dear to her heart.

APPROVE FY'13 BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES TO DATE

Rich Sanders reviewed the budget with Council members.

Kathy Fitzgerald MOVED to approve the FY'13 budget and expenditure report. The motion **PASSED**.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Legislative Committee

David Flynn presented the Legislative Committee report as follows:

Accomplishments Since October:

- Drafted and finalized position papers for Complex Behaviors Collaborative, SESA, ILP Funding Increment, Employment First legislation
- Encouraged members to send congratulations cards to legislators.

Upcoming Activities and Projects:

- Follow legislation on Council priorities
- Look for sponsors for Respectful Language legislation and Employment First legislation
- Attendance at Trust weekly legislative meetings
- **Kalyssa Maile** will send out a weekly legislative newsletter
- Participate in Trust Advocacy Summit next week
- Assist with Key Campaign, February 20 – 21.

David Flynn added that the Legislative Committee was unable to coordinate a legislative Christmas card campaign this year, but encouraged Council members to send Valentine's Day cards or St. Patrick's Day cards.

Patrick Reinhart shared that Senator Meyer has drafted a Respectful Language bill for the Council to review.

David Flynn stated that Senator Ellis said he would co-sign on the SESA bill.

Rural Services Ad Hoc Committee

Anna Attla gave the Rural Services Ad Hoc Committee report as follows:

Accomplishments Since October:

- Technology survey sent to DD and Senior providers.
- Discussion regarding home modification projects and the need for a consolidated resource for people with disabilities to find the best way to get services.

Upcoming Activities and Projects:

- Review survey results and make recommendations to SDS.
- Research all the different agencies doing home modifications/ramps and create a statewide resource for individuals with disabilities.

Developmental Disabilities Committee

Kathy Fitzgerald gave the report from the Developmental Disabilities Committee as follows:

Activities of Importance Since October:

- Housing update from the Trust on DD beneficiaries
- Comments on proposed DHSS administrative hearing regulations
- Comments on proposed DHSS PCA and waiver rate regulations
- Attended and commented on the Acuity Rate Development Final Report presentation.

Next Steps:

- Letter to the commissioner regarding IAT nursing
- Letter to the commissioner regarding med sets
- Continue making recommendations regarding applicable proposed DHSS regulation changes
- Support the new statewide self-advocacy organization, Peer Power.

Peer Power

Lucy Odden presented the Peer Power report as follows:

Accomplishments Since October:

- Established membership
- Appointed governing body to begin group
- Worked with an attorney to develop Articles of Incorporation and bylaws
- Developed bylaw committee
- Granted non-profit status January 2013.

Upcoming Activities and Projects:

- Establish regional representatives and board of directors
- Hold upcoming elections for officers
- Work on developing an advisor for the group
- Investigate funding sources and technical assistance
- Develop the interests of the group.

Early Intervention Committee

Amy Simpson presented the Early Intervention Committee report as follows:

Accomplishments Since October:

- Reviewed the results of the 2012 Family Outcomes Survey and made recommendations to the State EI/ILP office
- Reviewed the Advocacy Plan for ILP funding request and worked with the Legislative Committee to update the position paper
- Reviewed the State ILP determination letter and chart.

Upcoming Activities and Projects:

- Track ILP funding during the legislative session
- Provide comments on ILP State regulations
- Work with the State EI/ILP and DEED to send out an early childhood transition survey
- AAEYC conference – January 31 - February 2, in Anchorage.

Education Committee

Taylor Gregg presented the Education Committee report as follows:

Accomplishments Since October:

- Reviewed restraint and seclusion information
- Provided testimony on regulations regarding school staff evaluations and student achievement data
- Discussed new regulations passed by the State Board of Education.

Upcoming Activities and Projects:

- Alaska Statewide Special Education Conference – February 4 – 6.
- Work with EED to send out a restraint and seclusion survey to school districts regarding their local policies
- Work with EED to see if restraint and seclusion data can be added to the current discipline data base
- Ad hoc committee to look at options for the Council to pursue to increase the rate of graduation with a diploma for students with disabilities.

Health and Disability Committee

Patrick Reinhart stated that the committee works in conjunction with the Division of Public Health on this project, and they meet on a weekly basis. Their committee has met once, and they will be meeting monthly. He stated that Marcy Rein has been secured as a consultant on this project using grant funds.

Patrick Reinhart stated that the reason for the project is because of the many health disparities discovered about people with disabilities in the state compared to the general population, such as higher obesity rates, higher rates of non-physical activity, and lower rates of getting mammograms. The other part of the project is to work on emergency management preparedness for families of people with disabilities.

Patrick Reinhart stated they have worked on the Ready Now Toolkit by taking other emergency preparedness toolkits for families and people with disabilities and Alaskanizing them.

He stated that the committee is working on a partner's summit on April 10th, and it will be a pre-conference activity with Full Lives. They plan to bring in approximately 60 to 70 people for the summit.

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus asked how the Health Alaska 2020 Initiative fits in with this committee, and she asked if she should be a liaison between the two groups. **Patrick Reinhart** stated **Margaret Kossler** is the only Council member on this committee, and he feels that Jeanne would be an excellent addition too.

Ad Hoc Committee on Autism

Kathy Fitzgerald stated that the committee has not been active for a while, however, they are hoping to become more active in dealing with some of the recommendations to the work committee on the autism insurance bill. **Heidi Haas** stated that she and **Kathy Fitzgerald** have offered to Representative Saddler, who chairs the committee to oversee the autism insurance bill, for the Ad Hoc Committee on Autism to start doing some of the preliminary work and then continue on with the work after the session.

MEETINGS WITH LEGISLATORS

Council members continued their meetings with legislators.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RATIFICATION VOTE

Chair Gebhart announced that the votes are in, and the Council has ratified their new executive director, **Teresa Holt**, by a vote of 20 to 3. **Chair Gebhart** also recognized all of the efforts made by **Tara Horton** in this executive director search.

DEBRIEFING SUMMARY AND DISCUSSION OF NEXT STEPS

Complex Behavior Collaborative

Teresa Holt stated that Senator Olson said that he would speak with Commissioner Streur and Jeff Jessee next week and that he might be able to negotiate something to put in the budget. **Chair Gebhart** stated he found people that would be willing to support the CBC if they would find someone to introduce it. **Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus** stated that she was under the impression that Representative Nageak would step in to help if approached.

SESA

Teresa Holt stated that in addition to the Senate bill, there was also a bill in the House introduced by Representative Higgins. **Chair Gebhart** stated that Peggy Wilson was going to work with him on it, and she is willing to co-sponsor it with him. **Teresa Holt** commented that the general feeling is that most legislators are very supportive of the reauthorization. **Chair Gebhart** stated that Senator Huggins, Senate president, is supportive. **Teresa Holt** added that Senator Wielechowski advised them to get the amendment in during committee, and he stated that although he is not on any of the committees that are important for SESA, he would introduce it on the floor.

Employment for People with Disabilities

Patrick Reinhart stated that he believes Charisse Millett and Max Gruenberg are interested in sponsoring Employment First legislation. **Rich Sanders** noted that some of the people he talked to wanted some clear examples of cost savings when looking at the tax benefits and the reduced need for benefits. Rich stated that here is a lot of data to support that, and he will be gathering that data over the next week.

Respectful Language Legislation

Teresa Holt stated that Senator Meyer's office has drafted a bill for the Council to look over. She stated that there were many people on the House side that were supportive of that bill, so they should be able to find someone to sponsor it once the Senate bill gets introduced.

CLOSING COMMENTS

Teresa Holt stated that Council staff will compile the legislative summaries submitted by Council members and will send them out to all Council members.

Susan Kaplan commented on the organization of the packets and how helpful and easy they were to use. **Kathy Fitzgerald** commented that it was one of the best years for being organized for the legislative visits. She liked having a sheet where she could double check where she was supposed to be and when.

Chair Gebhart recognized **Kalyssa Maile** for all her work coordinating this legislative Council meeting, and recognized **Sheryl Cobb** and **Michelle Jenkins** for organizing the meeting, travel, and the overnight stay in Sitka for some of the Council members.

ADJOURN

Justine Sheehan MOVED to adjourn the meeting. The motion **PASSED** and the meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.